



**CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST
PALISADES RANGER DISTRICT
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO**

2012

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

GOLDEN GATE SHEEP ALLOTMENT

CONTACT US PRIOR TO STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

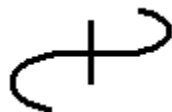
<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>	<u>Permitted Number</u>
Horseshoe Sheep Co.	July 3 th to September 17 th	500 ewes/lambs
Phillips Brothers Farm and Livestock	July 3 th to September 17 th	500 ewes/lambs

The authorized season of use for 2012 begins **July 3rd** and ends **September 17th**. One band of 1000 ewes with lambs will graze the Golden Gate Allotment and portions of the Lone Pine Allotment. Horseshoe sheep company is authorized to graze 500 head of sheep and Phillips Brothers Farm and Livestock is authorized to graze 500 head of sheep.

All sheep must be your own livestock.

The following brands are permitted on the allotment:

Horseshoe Sheep Co. 

Phillips Brothers Farm and Livestock 

GRAZING SCHEDULE

Trail the sheep to the Lone Pine Allotment using the **Rerouted** Bear Creek Driveway. Graze the portion of Unit 3 of the Lone Pine Allotment east of Lone Pine Ridge. Next follow the sheep driveway to the Golden Gate Allotment.

Once on the Golden Gate Allotment use the following sequence for the **2012** season.

<u>Sequence</u>	<u>Units</u>
Graze 1 st	6 Bear Creek
Graze 2 nd	5 Fourth of July
Graze 3 rd	4 Chaparral
Graze 4 th	3 North Fork
Graze 5 th	2 Golden Gate
REST	1 Fall Creek

Trail the sheep back to the Brockman Corrals using the **Rerouted** Bear Creek Driveway to ship lambs. All trail time must occur within your permitted season.

An area of this allotment on the east side of Fourth of July Ridge is closed for resource protection. It is fenced on three sides. You need to make sure your herder is familiar with this area so he can keep the sheep out of the restricted area. Only the top and bottom fences will be put up this season. Be sure to instruct your herder to keep the sheep out of this closed area.

One other area of special concern on this allotment is the special use outfitter camp location at Golden Gate (see allotment map). Do not allow sheep to graze within 200 yards of the camp.

Allotment Management

Be sure to get the sheep down to Bear Creek in Unit 5. There is an area of this unit they have missed the past two seasons. We will discuss the routes to this area at the spring meeting.

When trailing to your allotment or from your allotment to the corral, be sure to have your sheep cross Corral Creek on the bridge on Brockman road. Do not trail sheep through the Brockman Guard Station.

PROPER USE CRITERIA

These utilization guidelines apply to native and desirable nonnative vegetation as recorded at the end of the grazing period.

The following rates for forage utilization apply to the total amount of forage utilized. The use rates include wildlife grazing as well as domestic livestock. Once proper use of the forage is met the sheep will be moved to the next unit or off of the allotment.

Upland Forage Utilization

<u>Vegetation type</u>	<u>Percent Utilization</u>
Herbaceous vegetation including grasses	55%
Shrubs	35%

Riparian Forage Utilization and Stubble Height

Riparian Shrubs (current year's growth)	30%.
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A four inch (4") stubble height will be applied to key species along the Hydric Greenline (HGL) and a three inch (3") stubble height will be applied to key species in the Aquatic Influence Zones (AIZ).

Herdin

When grazing, allow the sheep to spread out and avoid excessive use of dogs to herd the sheep especially on the steep slopes of the allotment. Sheep will not be allowed to shade up along stream banks. After they have watered the sheep will be eased away from the water to shade. Bringing sheep to water either early or late in the day seems to have less impact on streams than when the sheep come to water during the hot part of the day, as they tend to shade up along the streams. Bed grounds will be used only one night during the grazing season. Move the sheep to a new bed ground each night. Do not bed sheep on system roads, trails, or in riparian areas.

Salting

No salt will be placed within ¼ mile of water, or as far from water as practical. Also salt will not be placed next to roadways or forest system trails. Utilize areas where salt grounds will create the least impact on the land.

Camps

Herder camps should be located at least 50 feet from the trails if possible. Low impact camping techniques will be used such as: picketing or highlining any stock that will remain tied for long periods of time, using existing fire rings or removing sod from a new fire ring and replacing it before you leave, caching tent poles cut from native trees to use another year. Picket lines will be of a length so not to allow pack and saddle stock to cross roads or trails. Fires will be extinguished when not attended. Pack out all trash from your sheep camps including any trash that is left from previous years or items left by other campers. Keep camps clean while they are occupied.

Disposal of Dead Livestock

Dead livestock need to be moved at least 100 feet from system roads and trails, and water sources.

Range Improvements

You are responsible for your share of the maintenance on the Brockman Corral. Continue to coordinate with other corral users as to when you intend to use the corral. The annual maintenance of the corral will be completed while preparing to ship lambs.

Allotment Monitoring

During management of the allotment this summer we would like you to document dates and livestock numbers as you enter and exit the various units. Also stubble height should be recorded as the livestock leave the units and general remarks pertaining to management of the unit.

COORDINATION & COOPERATION

Motorized Access

The Palisades Ranger District is closed to cross country motorized travel. Adhere to the travel plan while managing your sheep on the allotment. Motorized vehicles are only allowed on the roads and trails designated as open to motorized use.

The Caribou Subsection Travel Plan has been revised. Actions in the decision that may affect the management of your allotment include designating as ATV trails, the Fourth of July Ridge Trail and the Sheep Driveway Trail (from Commissary Road to Fourth of July Ridge). All other system trails on the allotment are designated as single track motorized trails.

Noxious Weeds

The Palisades Ranger District will again have a crew treating weeds on the District this summer. Continue to look for new weed infestations on your allotment. Any hay or straw entering the National Forest must be certified "Weed Free".

Wolf Management

You need to comply with the most current rules concerning wolf management. To receive the latest information on wolf management you can contact the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Any problems with wolves will be reported to Wildlife Services as well as Palisades Ranger District as soon as possible.

Fire

All wildfires on the allotment will be evaluated and the appropriate management actions will be taken. Some wildfires may be managed to improve forest and ecosystem health. You will be notified if fires are being managed for resource benefits near your allotment.

Aspen Improvement

The District has prepared a plan to improve the aspen forest type in the upper portions of the Fall Creek and Bear Creek drainages. The project will include cutting of conifers and stimulation of aspen, to favor aspen forest clones within a 24,277 acre landscape. Part of Unit One of this allotment is in the aspen project area. Areas of the allotment which receive prescribed fire treatments will require rest from livestock grazing for two growing seasons following the burn. Unit one of this allotment is scheduled to receive prescribed fire in 2013.

INFORMATION

In addition to this grazing plan the folder contains: An allotment map, a page of general grazing instructions and an Actual Use Record. Keep the record current with allotment information and return it to us at the end of the grazing season.

This Annual Operating Instruction document is part of your Term Grazing Permit. If a situation develops that requires a change to this plan contact the District Ranger and obtain approval prior to initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. If you have any questions about the plan or the allotment in general, contact us. The phone number for the Idaho Falls Office is 523-1412.

These instructions have been reviewed by the permittee and the Palisades Ranger District and in combination with the permit and Allotment Management Plan will be the guide for this allotment for the 2012 grazing season.

/s/ Horseshoe Sheep Co.

By Matt Phillips

Permittee

4/24/12

Date

/s/ Phillips Brothers Farm and Livestock

By Nathan Phillips

Permittee

4/24/12

Date

/s/ Robbert Mickelsen

ROBBERT MICKELSEN

District Ranger

5/1/12

Date